

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3109

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 10426

EXDIS

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, UR, AR

SUBJECT: ROGERS' CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO

REF: LIMA 10373

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO THIS MORNING IN HIS HOTEL SUITE FOR APPROXIMATELY A HALF HOUR IN A CONTINUATION OF MY TALKS WITH HIM REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. HE BEGAN BY GIVING ME HIS IMPRESSION OF LAST NIGHT'S SPEECHES AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO. IT WAS CLEAR, BLANCO THOUGHT, THAT VENEZUELA AND PERU HAD BEGUN TO FORM A KIND OF CONSORTIUM. HE SAW PEREZ AS A HEMISPHERIC LEADER. MANY OF PEREZ'S VIEWS HAD FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE FINAL DECLARATION. PRESIDENT VELASCO'S SPEECH WAS, TO HIS WAY OF THINKING, MORE MODERATE THAN EXPECTED. HE SAID HE WAS RATHER SURPRISED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN THE DECLARATION AND OBSERVED THAT THE SIGNIFICANT WORDS "UNITY" AND "COMMUNITY" WERE USED OFTEN. IT SEEMED TO BLANCO THAT AYACUCHO WAS SHAPING UP AS A STAGING GROUND FOR THE "CRESCENDO" OF CARACAS, WHERE THE LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WILL MEET NEXT YEAR. THE REFERENCE IN THE DECLARATION TO THE "SECOND" EMANCIPATION OF LATIN

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AMERICA HE FOUND INTERESTING. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT

PRESIDENT ANDRES PEREZ WAS THE SECOND BOLIVAR WHO WOULD LIBERATE LATIN AMERICA.

3. IN DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE ABSENCE OF MEXICO AND BRAZIL, HE SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BRAZIL DID NOT ATTEND BECAUSE IT HAD NO TASTE FOR A MEETING IN WHICH IT WAS IN A SECOND RATE POSITION. GEISEL HAD NOT BEEN INVITED. ONLY THE INVITED PRESIDENTS MADE THE DECISIONS.

4. HE THEN DISCUSSED THE URUGUAYAN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA. HE NOTED THAT UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES WHO HAD BILATERAL PROBLEMS OR WANTED SOMETHING FROM THE U.S., URUGUAY FOUND THAT ITS FOREIGN POLICY "SPONTANEOUSLY COINCIDED" WITH THAT OF THE U.S. HE SAID THAT THE URUGUAYANS TENDED TO SUSPECT ANYONE WHO SOUGHT HEGEMONY, AND IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE BEGINNING TO RESENT THE PEREZ ROLE HERE.

5. HE THOUGHT URUGUAY AND BRAZIL WOULD VIEW THE CARACAS MEETING IN A SIMILAR LIGHT.

6. BOLIVIA'S AGREEMENT TO INVITE CUBA TO THE CARACAS MEETING WAS INTERESTING.

7. I POSED THE QUESTION OF HOW THE CARACAS MEETING WOULD AFFECT BUENOS AIRES, HE THOUGHT A CARACAS MEETING WHICH HELPED RESOLVE THE CUBAN PROBLEM WOULD BE A POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL, BUT HE IMPLIED THAT HE DIDN'T THINK THIS VERY LIKELY.

8. WITH REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN THE BUENOS AIRES MFM, BLANCO SAID HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CONTINUATION OF CUBAN PARTICIPATION AND THE CUBAN CONTROVERSY ON THE AGENDA WAS THE WORST OF THE FOUR POSSIBILITIES. OPTION TWO--THAT CUBA PARTICIPATE AND THAT CUBAN ISSUES BE EXCLUDED FROM THE BUENOS AIRES DIALOGUE HE THOUGHT ALSO SHOULD BE REJECTED, SINCE AT SUCH A LARGE MEETING IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THE DISCUSSION, THUS, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE CUBAN ISSUE COULD BE EXCLUDED TOTALLY FROM THE DIALOGUE. OPTION THREE, THAT CUBA NOT PARTICIPATE BUT CUBAN ISSUES BE DISCUSSED HE THOUGHT MIGHT

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BE THE BEST SOLUTION. BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE IN A LOW KEY ATMOSPHERE. THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE FORMALLY ON THE AGENDA, BUT RESERVED FOR THE CORRIDORS. OTHERWISE THE SAME RESENTMENTS AND HARD FEELINGS WHICH EMERGED AT THE QUITO MEETING MIGHT PLAGUE BUENOS AIRES.

9. HE ASSERTED THAT THE URUGUAYANS WANTED CONCRETE ASSURANCES THAT THE CUBANS WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN URUGUAYAN POLITICS.

CASTRO'S SAYING "I WOULD BE A GOOD BOY" WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH.
THE URUGUAYAN PEOPLE ARE TOO SOPHISTICATED TO BELIEVE IT.

10. WITH REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA AT BUENOS AIRES BLANCO LISTED
THE REFORM OF THE RIO TREATY, THE TRADE ACT, THE ROLE OF
TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND PANAMA CANAL.

11. DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROA IN
LIMA, HE THOUGHT THAT ROA HAD COME MERELY TO PREVENT THE
POSSIBILITY OF A PINOCHET-VELASCO CONFERENCE.
DEAN

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